

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1656

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, CH, US, TW, JA

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF "REFERENCE NEWS" ISSUES

1. BEGIN INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. WE HAVE RECENTLY ACQUIRED THE JUNE 28 AND JULY 6, 7, 8, AND 14 ISSUES OF THE PRC LIMITED-CIRCULATION FOREIGN PRESS COMPILATION TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI (REFERENCE NEWS). THE DISPROPORTIONATE COVERAGE OF U.S. AFFAIRS AND AMERICAN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY IN THE 4-PAGE TABLOID (UPWARDS OF 25 PER CENT) REINFORCES OUR IMPRESSION THAT FAR MORE CHINESE THAN THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUST HAVE A FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND THE U.S. DOMESTIC SCENE. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. THE JULY 14 "REFERENCE NEWS" CARRIES THE FULL TEXT, APPARENTLY, OF A (JAPANESE) JIJI AGENCY JULY 12 DISPATCH ON THE MIYAZAWA-MANSFIELD TALKS IN TOKYO, INCLUDING EVEN THE MOST DELICATE--TO A CHINESE READERSHIP--HIGHLIGHTS OF MIYAZAWA'S PITCH: THAT THE "JAPANESE FORMULA" MIGHT NOT BE APPLICABLE TO US-PRC NORMALIZATION; THAT THE JAPANESE HOPED NO "DRASTIC CHANGE" WOULD OCCUR IN POST-ELECTION US-PRC RELATIONS; AND THAT ABROGATION OF THE US-ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE
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TREATY WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF PRC TALK OF

"ARMED LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN.

3. OTHER ARTICLES RUN BY THE JULY 14 ISSUE INCLUDED:

--A JAMES RESTON COLUMN PUBLISHED JULY 12 IN THE NEW YORK TIMES HEADLINED "CHANGING AMERICAN MOOD CAUSES WORRY FOR DEMOCRATS." THE THRUST OF THE ARTICLE, PUBLISHED AS THE ISSUE'S LEAD PIECE, IS THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S ELECTORAL PROSPECTS ARE BETTER THAN CURRENT POLLS WOULD INDICATE. INTERESTINGLY, THE CHINESE EDITORS DID NOT EXCISE RESTON'S EXPLICIT LINKAGE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S IMPROVED PROSPECTS WITH THE U.S. ECONOMIC UPTURN--DESPITE REGULAR PUBLICATION IN OFFICIAL CHINESE MEDIA OF ARTICLES NOTING THE SORRY STATE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY.

--UP AND AP REPORTS ON THE SWEARING-IN OF AMBASSADOR HUMMEL AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

--A UP REPORT ON THE PENTAGON'S NEW COMMAND CENTER.

--EXCERPTS FROM US PRESS REPORTS ON THE NEW US AFRICAN POLICY--
UNDERSCORING THE POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. ARMS ASSISTANCE MIGHT
BE EXTENDED TO BLACK AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS OPPOSED TO RHODESIA.

4. THE JULY 6 ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS AN ARTICLE BY SEN. GOLDWATER ENTITLED "AMERICA'S FUTURE: SPECULATION ON THE SITUATION IN AMERICA'S THIRD CENTURY" WHICH HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 27 "ARIZONA REPUBLICAN." THIS ARTICLE MAKES NO MENTION OF TAIWAN, BUT STRESSES THAT AMERICAN CREDIBILITY WITH ITS ALLIES IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO FULFILLMENT OF ITS EXISTING COMMITMENTS.

5. THE SAME ISSUE ALSO CARRIES REPORTS ON: (1) PRESIDENT FORD'S BICENTENNIAL SPEECH IN PHILADELPHIA, AND (2) NUCLEAR REGULATORY AGENCY APPROVAL OF SALE OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA.

6. THE JULY 7 "REFERENCE NEWS" CARRIES ON PAGE TWO A REPORT ON PRESIDENT FORD'S JULY 4TH SPEECH AT MONTICELLO. BUT ON PAGE ONE, UNDER THE HEADLINE "SEVERAL THOUSANDS RALLY TO PROTEST CAPITALIST OPPRESSION," THERE IS A JULY 5 AFP REPORT ON A COUNTER-BICENTENNIAL MARCH IN PHILADELPHIA BY PERSONS "RESPONDING TO THE CALL BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY--A
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SMALL FACTION ADHERING TO MAOISM."

7. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND HONG KONG.
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